

Application No.: 10/070,776

Filed: March 12, 2002

Group Art Unit:

Please amend all the Claims to read as follows (a copy of the amended claims showing the additions and deletions appears at the end for the Examiner's convenience):

Q1 Sub 1. Rail section for stretched fabric false partitions, said section comprising at least one groove defined by two lateral walls and a base wall, said groove being designed to contain at least one edge of the stretched fabric after it has been mounted in the section, characterised in that being of a single piece, said rail section comprises a joint for keeping the edge of the stretched fabric in said groove, said joint being made of a material having a flexibility differing from that of the material constituting the walls of said groove.

2. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint for retaining the edge of the stretched fabric.

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✓ 3. Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that the joint comprises a single lip protruding from one of the lateral walls of said groove, known as a joint support wall, said lip comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an opposing external face.

✓ 4. Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the lip joint is an approximately flat joint, the internal face of the lip being approximately parallel to its external face.

✓ 5. Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicularly to its support wall.

✓ 6. Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove.

✓ 7. Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

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✓ 8. Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the ^{r.A.} sole lip of the joint extends along an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall.

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r.A. 9. Rail section according to claim 8, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove.

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✓ 10. Rail section according to claim 9, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

✓ 11. Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the single lip projects from the ^{r.A.} extreme portion of its support wall.

✓ 12. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each ~~another~~.

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13. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall.

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14. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove.
P.A.

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15. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the support wall of the joint.
P.A.

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16. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends along an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall.

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17. Rail section according to claim 16, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove.
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18. Rail section according to claim 17, characterised in that the free edge of lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

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11 19. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the single lip projects from the ^{r.a.} extreme portion of its support wall.

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20. Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the external face of the ^{r.a. sole} lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the lateral walls of the groove.

21. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the joint comprises two lips, projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove, said joint support wall, namely a first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip known as a masking lip, the internal face of the first lip orientated towards the base wall of the groove being slanted with respect to the joint support wall, the external face of the second lip opposite the base wall of the groove being approximately perpendicular to the joint support wall.

22. Rail section according to claim 21, characterised in that the ^{r.a.} free edge of the first lip is in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

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23. Rail section according to claim 21, characterised in that the internal face of the first lip is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint support wall.

24. Rail section according to claim 21, characterised in that the two lips project from the extreme portion of the joint support wall.

25. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the joint comprises two lips, each lip projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face.

26. Rail section according to claim 25, characterised in that the two lips are approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the groove and placed halfway from the two lateral walls of the groove.

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27. Rail section according to claim 25, characterised in that the internal face of at least one of the two lips is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip.

28. Rail section according to claim 25, characterised in that the external face of at least one of the two lips extends approximately perpendicular to the support wall of said lip.

29. Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that the lateral walls of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer.

30. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that it is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint.

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31. Rail section according to claim 30, characterised in that the walls of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material possibly recycled, the joint being made of a flexible PVC.

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32. Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises an external wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing, said internal wing being approximately parallel to the lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt rail sections.

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33. False wall comprising a stretched fabric fixed along its edges to a support fixed onto the walls of a room, said support comprising a rail formed of portions of sections as shown in claim 1, characterised in that the edge of said fabric is provided with an excess thickness taking support against the internal face of the joint.

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34. False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall of the groove being mounted close to a wall and the second lateral wall of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the joint extending projecting from the lower extreme portion of the first lateral wall, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the internal face of the joint and the internal face of the second lateral wall of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall of the groove.

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35. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls of the groove have approximately identical heights, the external face of the joint being placed approximately perpendicular to said lateral walls, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric.

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36. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls of the groove have different heights, the first lateral wall of the groove close to the wall being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the extension plane of the stretched fabric and the ^{N.A} lower extremity of the first lateral wall.

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37. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric, the rest of the rail section being of standard colour, tint and brightness.

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38. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the lower extremity of the second lateral wall of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support is rounded.

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39. False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that it comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the vertical central wing, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of two opposing grooves and a joint support for retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics.

Please add the following new claims 40-48:

40. Rail section according to claim 5, characterised in that:

the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

41. Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that:

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the sole lip of the joint extends along an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall;

the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall;

the single lip projects from the extreme portion of its support wall.

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42. Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that:

the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each another;

the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall;

the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the support wall of the joint.

43. Rail section according to claim 13, characterised in that:

the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends along an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall;

the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall;

the single lip projects from the extreme portion of its support wall;

the external face of the sole lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to the lateral walls of the groove.

44. Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that:

the joint comprises two lips, projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove, said joint support wall, namely a first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip known as a masking lip, the internal face of the first lip orientated towards the base wall of the groove being slanted with respect to the joint support wall, the external face of the second lip opposite the base wall of the groove being approximately perpendicular to the joint support wall;

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the free edge of the first lip is in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall;

the internal face of the first lip is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint support wall;

the two lips project from the extreme portion of the joint support wall.

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45. Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that:

the joint comprises two lips, each lip projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face;

the two lips are approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the groove and placed halfway from the two lateral walls of the groove;

the internal face of at least one of the two lips is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip;

the external face of at least one of the two lips extends approximately perpendicular to the support wall of said lip;

the lateral walls of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer;

it is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint;

the walls of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material, possibly recycled, the joint being made of a flexible PVC;

it comprises an external wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing, said internal wing being approximately parallel to the lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt rail sections.

46. False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, wherein:

the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall of the groove being mounted close to a wall and the second lateral wall of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the joint extending projecting from the lower extreme portion of the first lateral wall, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the internal face of the joint and the internal face of the second lateral wall of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall of the groove;

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the two lateral walls of the groove have one of approximately identical heights, the external face of the joint being placed approximately perpendicular to said lateral walls, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric and different heights, the first lateral wall of the groove close to the wall being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the extension plane of the stretched fabric and the lower extremity of the first lateral wall;

the external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric, the rest of the rail section being of standard colour, tint and brightness.

47. False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that the lower extremity of the second lateral wall of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support is rounded.

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48. False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that
(it) comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the
edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a
groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said
rail section comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged
downwards by a vertical central wing and two other lower
horizontal wings situated on both sides of the vertical central
wing, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of two
opposing grooves and a joint support for retaining the excess
thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics.
